

Amherst Dec 18th 1832

Dear Bro L

Your favor came to hand yesterday, & afforded us much pleasure I assure you. I congratulate you upon your prosperity as regards both your public & domestic concerns, but particularly I tender you my warmest gratulations upon your introduction to young Amos, & on the restored health of sister P. No doubt but young Master is a bright fellow & unless he is physically depraved, will make a good Saybrook in due time. I hope to see him before long & judge "in propria persona" whether you are entitled to the thanks of the community or not. I rejoice exceedingly to learn that affairs are going so swimmingly in your Society ^{affairs}. I have felt some solicitude to learn how you got along with your good bro Rand, as I heard that he was on the "off side," & was disposed to be rather refractory. If you can succeed in breaking him ^{off} some of his bad tricks, & can make him put his neck to the yoke & draw straight-forward, I think you will deserve much credit, & will have accomplished a very desirable end. I am very glad that you accepted the invitation to settle in Pine St & hope & trust that you will be both useful & happy.

When I last wrote you, I expected to leave the first of this week for Ct. but by special request, I have concluded to stay one more Sabbath, for the sale pur-

of L. M. M. M. M. M.

Love to your sister Phelps & the baby. Emily

pose of making a complete development of Taylorism
which I commenced last Sat. The subject has been se-
lected & given me by individuals here for next Sat to wit
"free agency & dependence". The last week has been
of tremendous excitement in this village. Such it is said
as was never known before of the subject of Theology, alias
Heresy. It seems that ever since the Com. sent for me to
come on & preach, there has been a most determined oppo-
sition to me on the ground solely of my supposed "Heresy".
I was not aware of the extent of the feeling, until last
week the smothered fire burst out, & it was currently reported
that I was an "Armenian" - "Pelagian" "Unitarian" - "Univer-
salist" - in short anything, but "sound in the faith".
This opinion originated not from any thing that I had said
either in, or out of the desk. A universal approbation
has been given, as far as I have heard, to my preaching
but they had been told that there was Taylorism (wh many do
not hesitate in & least to identify openly with Unitarianism) at
bottom. So last Sat I cut with it, flat & plain - viz de-
pravity - regeneration - the sincerity of God in what he
says, & it came upon them like a clap of thunder.
The effect as far as I can learn, is exactly what I wished
it to be. The "fence men" have all jumped off upon
my side, & I have not heard of a physically depraved
man's opening his mouth, except to say that "if that is Taylor-
ism it is not so bad as he thought it was". It is now
believe I grand theme of conversation. what will be the end

do not know. There was a parish meeting yesterday (called for
another purpose), at which I subject was made one of free discussion.
My friends, who now are pretty large party, spoke without reserve &
the ultras found no fault, but wished much to procure Mr.
Gail. They finally adjourned the meeting, for two weeks, without
doing anything at all. In the mean time I am to preach one
sermon & decamp. The sequel time will tell. This region you
know is the strong hold of Ultra Calvinism. It was at a
meeting of an Association in this town ~~was refused~~ that
young Dwight of the N.H. school was refused license in Sept
last, & I suppose the nearly only clergymen in this vicinity had as
hard see a student from Cambg settled across the way from
Amherst College, as one from N.H. & among ^{than any} the College Faculty them-
selves. Now Bro L I have seen so much of this place that
I am satisfied that it will not be a pleasant location.
I even think I have an opportunity to stay here. Still I should ~~have~~
no objection to their giving me a call of which perhaps there is a pos-
sibility. I should like much to be introduced to Lowell as you sug-
gest. Will you be so kind as to make some inquiry & if you can, &
think it expedient, bring it about. I think I am much better calculated
for such a place than for Amherst. I can come on immediately after
carrying wife home. She will not leave her father probably during winter though
she would be extremely happy to come & see you - wife & boy -- If they want
a poor supply in any of vacant churches in Boston for a Sabbath
or two I should like to fill a gap as it seems to introduce me to the
public you know. I should like to hear from you as early as
possible & if there is anything for me to do I will come on to N.B. with-
out least delay by stage. Direct to North Haven. Dear Mr Brother
A.C.V.B.



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Rev Amos A. Phelps
Boston
Ms.



1832.

J. G. Alden
Amherst Dec 18th

Love to your sister Phelps & the baby. Emily.